Tourist visits to Jammu and Kashmir

1357. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether large number of tourists have visited Jammu and Kashmir during the period from January to November, 1994;

(b) if so, the details thereof, month-wise;

(c) whether large number of these tourists were foreign nationals;

(d) if so, details thereof month-wise;

(e) whether the tourists are provided police protection in view of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (d) The statistics of month-wise tourist traffic to Jammu and Kashmir during 1994 as furnished by the State Government is as given below:—

Month	1994		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total
January	159300	277	159577
February	92649	1008	93657
March	263052	494	263546
April	354603	792	355395
May	415679	742	416421
June	520072	2028	522100
July	254435	7032	261467
August	366297	7570	373867
September	292273	3123	295396
October	377544	901	378445
TOTAL:	3095904	23967	3119871

(e) and (f) The police and Para Military Forces do maintain great vigil on the terrorism activities in the State. However, no police cover is given to individual tourists.

Religious and tourist places in the country

1358. SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Tourist and religious places exist in the country;

(b) if so, the location thereof, state-wise and Union Territory-wise;

(c) whether these places are visited during different period of the year;

(d) if so, the details thereof separately for religious places and tourist places;

(e) whether Government have taken up several programmes for development of these places; and

(f) if so, the details thereof separately for religious places and Tourist places?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State/Union Territory Governments identify places of tourist attraction and are primarily responsible for developing them as tourist/religious places. The Union Department of Tourism have identified 11 travel circuits and 6 destinations for intensive development under the National Action Plan. The details are placed at Statement-I (see below) The Government of India appointed a Committee on pilgrim Tourism which identified and recommended 19 centres in 12 States and 2 circuits. The details of these centres/places are at Statement-II (*See* below)

(c) and (d) The tourist/religious places are visited by the tourists/pilgrims through out the year depending upon their importance, location, weather conditions and religious significance.

(e) and (f) Development of tourist/religious places is primarily the responsibility of the State/Union Territory Governments. However, Central financial assistance is extended on receipt of a specific proposal for development of tourism depending upon its merit, interse-priorities and availability of funds.

Statement-I

Circuits-cum-destinations identified for intensive development under national action plan

Travel Circuits

Kulu-Manali-Leh

Gwalior-Shivpuri-Orcha-Khajuraho

Bagdogra-Sikkim-Darjeeling-Kalimpong

Bhubaneswar-Puri-Konark

Hyderabad-Nagarjunasagar-Tirupati

Madras-Mahabalipuram-Pondicherry

Rishikesh-Narender Nagar-Gangotri-Badrinath

Indore-Ujjain-Maheshwar-Omkareshwar-Mandu

Jaisalmer-Jodhpur-Bikaner-Barmer

Raigad Fort-Janjira Fort-Kuda Caves-Sirivardhan Harihareshwar-Sindhudurg

Bangalore-Mysore-Hassan

Destinations

Lakshadweep Islands

Andaman Islands

Manali (Solang-Nalah)

Bekal Beach

Muttukadu Beach

Kangra (Pong Dam)

Statement-II

Centres Identified for development by the committee on pilgrim tourism.

State	Centre/Place
Assam	Kamakhaya
Bihar	Bodhgaya Patna Saheb
Gujarat	Dwarka Palitana Udwada (near Vapi)
Himachal Pradesh	Paonta Saheb
Jammu & Kashmir	Jwalaji Mata Vaishnodevi
Karnataka	Sringeri Gulberga
Kerala	Guruvayur
Madhya Pradesh	Ujjain
Maharashtra	Shirdi (Nasik) Nanded Jyotiba in Kolep Dist.
Orisspa	Jagannath Puri
Rajasthan	Ajmer Sharief
Tamilnadu	Rameshwaram
Uttar Pradesh	Badrinath Circuit and Barsana-Nandgoan-Gokul-Mathura-Brindavan-Goverdhan Circuit

Foreign Tourists

1359. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) how many foreign tourists visited J and K, Rajasthan and Orissa during this year 1994-95 ending October, 1994 indicating the countries and whether there is any increase in tourist traffic particularly in Ladakh and Jaipur;

(b) whether Government have formulated the National Policy on Tourism in the country so far, if so, the salient features thereof and if not, reasons therefor; and

(c) what effective measures Government have taken till date to develop and improve the infrastructure of tourism in the country particularly in Rajasthan and financial help rendered during 1994-95 as compared to 1993-94 to the State of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) According to the information available from the State Governments, the estimated number of foreign tourists who visited Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan and Orissa during April to October 1994 were as given below:

Jammu and Kashmir	22,188
Rajasthan	2,06,408
Orissa	11,051